

HYLA LACTEA DAUDIN, 1803 (AMPHIBIA): REQUEST FOR
CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
Z.N.(S.) 2341

By John D. Lynch (*School of Life Sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588, U.S.A.*) & William E. Duellman (*Museum of Natural History and Department of Systematics and Ecology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, U.S.A.*)

In 1768 Laurenti (*Synopsin Reptilium* ... p. 34) named *Hyla lactea* and gave a brief diagnosis (= description) based on two specimens, one in the 'museo Academico Upsaliensi' and one in the 'museo Petropolitano'. These type specimens are apparently no longer extant. In 1803 Daudin (*Hist. Nat. des Rainettes* ... p. 29) considered Laurenti's *Hyla lactea* the same as his *Hyla hypocondrialis* (holotype lost, *vide* Duellman, 1977, *Das Tierreich*, vol. 95, p. 161) and for unknown reasons, proposed (p. 30) *Hyla lactea* Daudin as a new species from 'America'. The latter is based on Mus. nat. Hist. Paris no. 4870, an adult female.

2. Laurenti, 1768, also named *Hyla aurantiaca*, based on a figure in Seba (1734, *Thesaurus* ..., vol. 1, pl. 71, figs. 3). *Hyla aurantiaca* Laurenti either has been ignored except as a senior primary homonym of *H. aurantiaca* Daudin (Duellman, 1977, p. 179) or has been viewed as a subjective synonym of *Hyla boans* (Rivero, 1961, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* vol. 126, p. 137). Linné (1758, *Systema Naturae* ... 10th ed., ... p. 213) cited no type for *Rana boans* but his indications included references to Seba's figure as well as to one of his earlier works (Linné, 1754, *Mus. Adolph. Frider.*, ... I, p. 47). A type specimen for Linné's (1754) taxon was found (Lönnberg, 1896, *Bihang Svenska. Vet.-Akad. Handl.*, vol. 22, p. 13; Andersson, 1900, *Bihang Svenska. Vet.-Akad. Handl.*, vol. 26, p. 17; Mertens, 1940, *Zool. Anz.* vol. 132, p. 195) and has been termed the 'holotype' (Mertens, 1972, *Senckenberg. Biol.*, vol. 53, p. 197; Duellman, 1977, p. 39) but is best viewed as the lectotype for *Rana boans* (rendering Rivero's, 1961, p. 137, suggestion that *Hyla aurantiaca* Laurenti and *Rana boans* Linné are objective synonyms moot). Daudin, 1803, proposed his own *Hyla aurantiaca* as a new species based on Mus. nat. Hist. Paris no. 4871, an adult female.

3. Duméril & Bibron (1841, *Erpétologie Générale* ..., vol. 8, p. 612) first proposed that *Hyla aurantiaca* Daudin and *Hyla lactea* Daudin were identical, a view consistently held by systematists interested in neotropical frogs. In 1838, Tschudi (*Classif. Batrachier* ... p. 71) proposed a new genus, *Sphaenorhynchus*, based on *Hyla lactea* Daudin (*Sphaenorhynchus* Tschudi, 1838, is not a junior homonym of *Sphenorhynchus* Lichtenstein, 1823, Aves, as alleged by Lutz & Lutz, 1938, *Añais Acad. Bras. Sci.*, vol. 10, p. 178). Most workers in

the last century have recognised the genus although under a variety of names all of which employed Daudin's *Hyla lactea* as the type species.

4. Simple application of the laws of homonymy and priority results in the following:

- (1) *Hyla lactea* Laurenti is the oldest name applied to the well-known and widespread tree frog *Phyllomedusa hypocondrialis* (Daudin);
- (2) *Hyla aurantiaca* Laurenti is a subjective synonym of the well-known and widespread tree frog *Hyla boans* (Linné, 1758);
- (3) neither *Hyla aurantiaca* Daudin nor *Hyla lactea* Daudin is nomenclaturally valid because each is a junior primary homonym. The only nomenclaturally valid name for this widespread Amazonian species is *Sphaenorhynchus eurhustus* Rivero, 1969, a replacement name for *Hyla aurantiaca* Daudin, a junior primary homonym; and
- (4) the generic names *Sphaenorhynchus* Tschudi, 1838, *Dryomelictes* Fitzinger, 1843, and *Sphoenohyla* Lutz & Lutz, 1938, are invalid because each is based on a junior primary homonym, *Hyla lactea* Daudin 1803.

5. However, Daudin's (1803, p. 29) association of *Hyla lactea* Laurenti with his *Hyla hypocondrialis* is by no means secure. Duellman & Lynch (1981, *J. Herpetol.* vol. 15, pp. 237-239) showed that the imprecise description could equally apply to *Hyla fasciata* Günther, *H. geographica* Spix, and *Phyllomedusa tomopterna* (Cope), all widespread and well-known Amazonian-Guianan tree frogs. However, salient points in the description of *Hyla lactea* Laurenti are in conflict with the morphologies of each of these four species.

6. Although first listed as a senior name for *Phyllomedusa hypocondrialis* in 1803, *Hyla lactea* Laurenti has been ignored by herpetologists since Daudin, whereas *Hyla lactea* Daudin, 1803 has enjoyed recognition even as the type-species of a genus, in spite of occasional recognition that it is a junior primary homonym (Rivero, 1969, *Copeia* . . . p. 701). We conclude that *Hyla lactea* Laurenti, 1768 is unidentifiable with any species of frog and is therefore a nomen dubium, but as an available name it continues to threaten nomenclatural stability for the genus of cis-Andean hyliid frogs called *Sphaenorhynchus*.

7. Accordingly, we now request the Commission:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *lactea* as used in the combination *Hyla lactea* by Laurenti, 1768, p. 34, for purposes of the Law of Priority and for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place said specific name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *lactea* as used in the combination *Hyla lactea* by Daudin, 1803, p. 30, holotype Mus. nat. Hist.

nat. Paris no. 4870; type-locality 'America', on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

- (4) to place the generic name *Sphaenorhynchus* Tschudi, 1838, (gender: masculine, type species by monotypy, *Hyla lactea* Daudin, 1803, a primary homonym of *H. lactea* Laurenti, 1768) on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.